

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday 29th October 2009

Present: Councillor G. Kneeshaw in the Chair

Councillors: J. Arbuckle, I. Scott, S. Whitlock, D. Collins, D. Holmes,
G. Hudson, D. Windsor and C. Cleasby

In attendance: T Ferry, Mr Alan Gray

The Chair announced the death of Councillor Lynn Poad and asked members and others present to observe a minutes silence in respect of Lynn.

The Chair then asked Members if they wished to proceed with the meeting, all were in favour.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillors P. Dobson, R. Hardcastle and M. Townsley.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.
3. CO-OPT MEMBERSHIP TO THIS COMMITTEE
Mr Alan Gray was asked to leave the meeting whilst Members discussed this item.
Members discussed co-opting Mr Gray to the Environment Committee.
Councillor Kneeshaw proposed and Councillor Collins seconded this proposal with all Members in favour.
RESOLVED – That Mr Alan Gray be co-opted to the Environment Committee.
Mr Gray was then asked to re-join the meeting.
4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2009 were received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and duly signed by the Chair.
5. MATERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
 - a. Councillor Holmes asked if there was an update on the Boundary Signs. T. Ferry explained that this is now with Mr Merkel of the Highways department with some involvement of Councillor Chris Townsley who has had some dialogue with Mr Merkel.
RESOLVED - That the comments on Boundary Signs be noted.
 - b. Members discussed Ginnels and in particular Hunger Hills Woods and the works that has been carried out to the foot paths. It was decided to put Ginnels as an item for future agenda.
Resolved - That Ginnels be an item for the next meeting agenda.
 - c. Councillor Whitlock asked, with works being carried out to replace trees in Victoria Walk, has consideration been given to replace those trees that are missing on Stanhope Drive? Members agreed that this should be an item for future agenda.
RESOLVED - That Trees in Stanhope Drive be an item for the next meeting agenda.

6. NEW BAND STAND IN HALL PARK

Councillor Hudson presented photographs of the band stand in Pudsey. He then explained that he would like to open a discussion with Members of this Committee about replacing the existing band stand in Hall Park. Members discussed this for some time and it was agreed that the band stand in Hall Park currently needs a new roof and some refurbishment to other parts of the construction. Councillor Hudson has volunteered to visit the Town Hall in Pudsey to ask who supplied the band stand, how it was funded and the actual cost. T. Ferry was asked to write to David Read of Friends of Hall Park to advise him that Horsforth Town Council are investigating the possibility of replacing the existing band stand in Hall Park, and to ask him for Friends of Hall Park views on this.

RESOLVED

- a. That Councillor Hudson visit Pudsey Town Hall to enquire about the source of there band stand, how it was funded and the actual cost.
- b. That T Ferry writes to David Read of Friends of Hall Park.

7. GINNELS

Councillor Kneeshaw reported to Members that he has not yet contacted Rosie Watts about the definitive list of Ginnels in Horsforth. A discussion pursued about those Ginnels that are not on the definitive list and about who's responsibility it is to maintain them.

Various Members have done some research in previous years and Councillor Holmes advised that the definitive list contains 54 public rights of way in Horsforth, and of those, Aire Valley Tree Services carry out a spring and autumn clearance of 27 Ginnels/Foot Paths from this list. T Ferry reported that he has the Paths Partnership Agreement between Leeds City Council and Horsforth Town Council, which is dated April 2004 and is still current. The agreement is for Horsforth to maintain the foot paths on the definitive list and to receive an amount of £6,500 annually from Leeds City Council for carrying out this work.

Members discussed the map of the foot paths and it was agreed that this should be worked on to establish existing foot paths and foot paths not on the definitive list. Councillor Kneeshaw has agreed to pursue this and report back to this Committee at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That this item be on the next meeting agenda and Councillor Kneeshaw reports his findings to this Committee at the next meeting.

8. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Councillor Collins explained to Members, the programme of events and carols to be sung which were attached to the agenda. Councillor Collins then reported that she has written to all Junior Schools in Horsforth to invite them to lead the carol singing but to date only the Froebelian School has responded. It was agreed that a 2nd letter should be sent to those Schools who have not responded.

Councillor Collins then explained that there was a more comprehensive system in place for gaining approval to carry out such events, which included a West Yorkshire Police Event Notification Form. This included items such as safety marshalling and first aid cover. It was agreed that Councillor Kneeshaw makes enquiries to gaining the services of St Johns Ambulance Service or another appropriate First Aid provider.

Councillor Collins then explained that in previous years this event broke even financially but this year this is not the case and there will be a requirement for extra funding as these items have not been budgeted for. These items include the crew to erect the stage, the band, printing, sweets, sand/grit for foot paths and first aid cover.

It was agreed that the extra funding will be made available for this event. Mr Gray agreed to make arrangements to collect the barriers and traffic cones for the Leeds City Council Highways depot.

T Ferry was asked to request Leeds City Council to clear the Green of leaves the Thursday before the event.

RESOLVED

- a. That Councillor Kneeshaw arrange the services of a First Aid provider,
- b. That Mr Gray make arrangements to collect the barriers and traffic cones,
- c. That T Ferry make arrangements for Leeds City Council to clear the leaves from the Green the Thursday before the event,
- d. That additional funding for the event is to be made available to cover those costs not previously budgeted for, and include the crew to erect the stage, the band, printing, sweets, sand/grit for foot paths and any other necessary expenses to make the event safe.

9. 2009 BULB PLANTING

Mr Gray reported that he has sourced the Daffodils and that the programme of planting is about to start. He advised Members that the bulbs did not cost the £400 as budgeted for and requested that the remainder of the budget be used to purchase grow bags and bulbs for a project with children of the Ducklings Nursery which is attached to St Margaret's Primary School. Members agreed to this and asked Mr Gray to report back to this Committee, with a view to running similar projects if this is successful.

RESOLVED – That the bulb planting be noted and that the remainder of monies be used to carry out the project with the Ducklings Nursery, and for Mr Gray to report the outcome of the project to this Committee.

10. Environment Budget for 2010

Members discussed the budget for 2010 and it was agreed to submit the following budget to full Council for approval:

RESOLVED – That the following budget be requested for 2010.

Hire of Christmas Lights	£6,100
Floral Fund and Pub/Restaurant Competition	£1,000
Spring & Summer Hanging Baskets and maintenance	£17,400
Street Cleaning	£5,500
Special Projects	<u>£2,000</u>
Total Budget for 2010	<u>£32,000</u>

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. Trees in Stanhope Drive
- b. Ginnels
- c. Bandstand
- d. Green Flag Status – Hall Park
- e. Old Ball Round About

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Environment Committee is to be Thursday the 4th February 2010.